

Traumatic brain injuries have become the signature wound of the war in Iraq. Up to two-thirds of our wounded soldiers may have suffered such injuries.

In the civilian population here at home, an unacceptably large number of children from birth to age 14 experience traumatic brain injuries approximately 475,000 a year and some of the most frequent of these injuries are to children under the age of 5. In Massachusetts alone, more than 40,000 individuals experience these injuries each year.

As a result of these injuries, over 5.3 million Americans are now living with a permanent disability. Today, we have taken another step toward ensuring that these citizens and their families will receive the best services we can provide.

The legislation reauthorizes grants that assist States, territories, and the District of Columbia in establishing and expanding coordinated systems of community-based services and supports for persons with such injuries.

The legislation also reauthorizes an important provision, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury Program. This program, enacted by Congress in 2000, has become essential because persons with these injuries have an array of needs beyond treatment and health care. Protection and advocacy services include assistance in returning to work, finding a place to live, obtaining supports and services such as attendant care and assistive technology, and obtaining appropriate mental health, substance abuse, and rehabilitation services.

Often these persons especially our returning veterans must remain in extremely expensive institutions far longer than necessary, because the community-based supports and services they need are not available, even though they can lead to reduced government expenditures, increased productivity, greater independence and community involvement. Those who provide such assistance must have spe-

cial skills, and their work is often time-intensive.

The legislation also allocates funds for CDC programs that provide important information and data on injury prevention of these injuries. A recent Institute of Medicine report demonstrated that these programs work. Their benefit is obvious, and we must do all we can to expand this appropriation in the years ahead to meet the urgent and growing need for this assistance.

A recent report by the Institute of Medicine calls the current TBI programs an "overall success." It states that "there is considerable value in providing funding," and "it is worrisome that the modestly budgeted TBI Program continues to be vulnerable to budget cuts."

Current estimates show that the Federal Government spends less than \$3 per brain injury survivor on research and services. As the IOM study suggests, this program must be able to expand, so that each State will have the resources needed to maintain vital services and advocacy for the large number of Americans who sustain such injuries each year.

Enactment of this bipartisan legislation will bring us a giant step closer to strengthening these vital programs for these deserving individuals and their families.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 123

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged of H.R. 123, an act to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund, and that it then be referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, April 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for use later in the day, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; and that following morning business, the Senate resume the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 608, H.R. 1195, the highway technical corrections bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the highway technical corrections bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:55 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 14, 2008, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, April 10, 2008:

THE JUDICIARY

BRIAN STACY MILLER, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS.

JAMES RANDAL HALL, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

JOHN A. MENDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

STANLEY THOMAS ANDERSON, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

CATHARINA HAYNES, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.